ties through co-operative sector at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, assistance to State Governments is given for promoting cooperative consumer movement in urban and rural areas. The purpose of this financial assistance is to enable the consumers' cooperative societies to deal with large variety of essential mass consumption goods and sell them at reasonable prices to the consumers. No separate assistance is given to such societies for opening fair price shops. Some of the societies may, however, be having fair price shops also. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development of consumers' cooperatives in urban areas as well as in rural areas, assistance has been provided to the Government of Orissa as follows:—

(Rs.in lakhs)

Year	For Urban Areas			For Rural Areas
	Loan	Grants	Total	Loans
1983-84 .	10·625	0·575	11·200	4·100
1984-85 .	4·490	0·730	5 120	13·900
1985-86 .	4·590	0 530	5·120	20 650

The State Governments have been advised by the Government of India that cooperatives should be encouraged to play a larger role in opening of fair price shops. As on 30-6-1986, out of the total number of 19,555 fair price shops in the State of Orissa, 4,860 were in the cooperative sector.

(c) to (e) The main objective of the promotion of cooperative consumer movement is that the cooperatives by procuring essential things from manufacturers could sell them at cheaper rates through their outlets. The competitiveness in their price structure has a salutory effect on the open market price. Actual operation of the public distribution system is the responsibility of the State Governments. They make arrangements for sale of P.D.S items through a net work of fair price shops. Opening of fair price shops either in the co-operative Sector or in the private sector depends upon the availability of total infrastructure and such decisions are taken by the local authorities depending upon local conditions. Fair price shops opened in the private sector are under close surveillance of the State authorities. The supply of PDS items is fully controlled and hence there is no question of middlemen coming in the system. All the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been impressed upon to ensure that PDS items through regular inspections and surprise visits to fair price shops by concerned officers are regularly supplied to the consumers.

Mining Projects affected by Power Tariff

1106. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the names of the mining projects which have been hit by excessive power tariff?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): The operations of the mining projects of Hindustan Copper Ltd., Hindustan Zinc Ltd., Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd., and Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., the public sector undertakings of the Department of Mines have been affected by very high power tariff rates.

Irrigation Facilities in North Eastern Region

1107. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create and expand irrigation facilities